



# Informational Notes for First Responders and Officials

2009 Bulletin # 2 – January 21, 2009

SEMA's Homepage: [sema.dps.mo.gov](http://sema.dps.mo.gov)

## **Nixon Designates John M. Britt Director of Public Safety**

Governor Jay Nixon designated John M. Britt Director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety. Britt is awaiting Missouri Senate confirmation. Once confirmed, Britt of Chesterfield will oversee numerous state programs and agencies, including the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Missouri State Water Patrol, the Missouri Capitol Police, the Missouri National Guard and the State Emergency Management Agency.

Britt served 27 years in the U.S. Secret Service. From 1999 to 2002, he was Special Agent in Charge of the St. Louis division. He assisted with the protection of numerous national and international leaders, including the President, Vice President, and Pope John Paul II St Louis visit. In 2002, he became senior director for global security at the Anheuser-Busch Companies headquartered in St Louis. Britt was a former a police officer in University City for two years.

## **Campbell Named Acting SEMA Director**

Operations Branch Chief John Campbell has been named acting SEMA Director effective January 12. Governor Nixon asked for and received resignations from SEMA Director Ronald M. Reynolds and Deputy Director Duane R Nichols. Department of Public Safety Director Designee Britt has indicated he wants to be involved in the selection of the new SEMA Director.

## **FEMA Joint Field Office Experiences Phone Difficulties**

**By Alan J. Prenger, Disaster Section Manager, Planning and Disaster Recovery Branch**

FEMA has experienced technical difficulties with their telephone system, both at the Joint Field Office and in the field (cell phones). They are working to correct the problems and reconnect the phones by Friday, January 23. In the interim, if you have an urgent situation needing resolution and cannot reach your FEMA P.O.C., please call the SEMA Disaster Section at (573) 526 - 9114 or 9203, and we will relay your situation to FEMA for assistance.

## **FEMA Launches new Website for Disaster Assistance**

On December 31, 2008, FEMA introduced a new user-friendly website called [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) which was developed to ease the frustration felt by disaster victims obligated to search through multiple federal programs to find aid. This website will centralize the application process for federal disaster assistance and offer a clearinghouse for information on programs administered at the federal, state and local levels. The website will contain information from 16 federal agencies that collectively sponsor more than 50 forms of disaster assistance. For the initial launch phase, the site will include only limited forms of federal assistance. Over the coming months the website will add federal assistance programs administered at the state level, then local, tribal and finally those of public non-profit organizations.

## **DHS Announces Emergency Operation Centers Grant**

**By Thomas E. Mohr, MEPM, Homeland Security Grant Administration Branch**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (FY) 2009 Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) Grant Program is now open. These nationally competitive grants are intended to improve state, and local

emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure and interoperable Emergency Operations Centers. City or County EOCs may request up to \$1 million for construction projects or up to \$250,000 for renovation projects. The grant guidance and a word EOC grant application are available on the SEMA homepage: <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/terrorism.htm> The EOC application must be downloaded and returned the Matt Nutt **before February 6, 2009** at. [Matthew.Nutt@sema.dps.mo.gov](mailto:Matthew.Nutt@sema.dps.mo.gov) questions call (573) 526-9223

## **Local Jurisdictions Can Purchase Generators from State Surplus Office**

**By Keith A Russell, Resource Section Chief**

The State Surplus Office in Jefferson City has a number of generators available for counties and communities to acquire for very low cost. The generators range in sizes up to 60 kW. These generators may be suitable for powering critical functions in local EOCs, water treatment, community shelters, and in Fire, Police and Ambulance Stations. To date, over 100 generators from surplus property have been successfully placed in our state at critical facilities. For more information about acquiring this and other resources critical to emergency preparedness, contact Missouri State Agency for Surplus Property at 573-751-3415.

## **Hark Receives Congressional Honor**

Former Congressman Kenny Hulshof nominated Hannibal's EMD John Hark for the Congressional Medal of Merit in recognition of Hark's efforts during the 2008 flood. The Medal of Merit, which also is known as the Medal for Merit, was established in 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to honor civilians of the United States and their allies for their exceptional service during World War II. The award is now used by members of Congress to recognize the achievements of their individual constituents. Hark managed Hannibal's response for the record-setting flood of '93. He watched with concern as 2008 weather patterns began following a pattern similar to what had developed 15 years earlier.

## **Chillicothe EMD/Fire Chief Joe Rinehart Retires**

Joe Rinehart recently retired as the Director of the Chillicothe Department of Emergency Services (EMD and Fire Chief) after nearly four decades of city employment.

## **Oglesby, Pickerel Named SEMA Planners**

Effective January 16<sup>th</sup>, Marcus Oglesby is new the Area I Coordinator in the Planning and Disaster Recovery and Planning Branch formerly held by Jim Pasley. Mike Pickerel is the Human Services Branch planner formerly held by Sara Jones.

## **Lundsted Retires**

Jim Lundsted, State Interoperability Officer, retired from state service effective January 12, 2009.

## **Area Coordinator Meetings**

Area A:	9:00 a.m.	March 11, 2009	EOC, Kansas City, MO
Area B:	6:30 p.m.	March 10, 2009	Dept of Conservation, Kirksville
Area E:	11:00 a.m.	February 20, 2009	China Buffet, Sikeston
Area F:	10:00 a.m.	February 11, 2009	Cooper Co EOC/911, Booneville
Area G:	11:30 a.m.	March 11, 2009	Hillbilly Junction Restaurant, Willow Springs

## **MoDHSS Releases 2008 Public Health Preparedness Report**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services recently released *Measuring Missouri's Public Health Preparedness Success – 2008 Update* that outlines key accomplishments of the department's progress in strengthening Missouri's public health preparedness capacity, highlights the successes, and

describes how DHSS spent funding on public health, hospital and laboratory preparedness. The 2008 Update covers the past grant year (August 31, 2007 to August 9, 2008) and can be viewed at: [www.dhss.mo.gov/BT\\_Response/MeasuringPublicHealthPreparedness.pdf](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/MeasuringPublicHealthPreparedness.pdf).

### ***Notice to all State and Local Homeland Security Sub grantees...***

#### **DHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG)-Field Audit**

**By Thomas E. Mohr, MEPM, Homeland Security Grant Administration Branch**

During the last two weeks of January 2009 and the first two weeks February 2009, the DHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) will be conducting field audits on selected equipment items purchased with Fiscal Year (FY) 2005/2006/2007 State Homeland Security Grant Program funds. The Audit Team will randomly select the sub grantees that will be visited. Sub grantees will be contacted, in advance; concerning the date of the visit and what the team plans to inventory and any support documentation (to be determined by the team) that may be required (we have been told this is not a wall-to-wall inventory, only select items). Sub grantees that have the selected equipment at multiple locations will have to consolidate those items at one location for the Audit Teams review and be available to be interviewed by the team. Various SEMA grant programs managers and/or SEMA Subject Matter Experts will accompany the team throughout the visit. We will contact the selected sub grantees when we get the field audit list from DHS OIG. If you have any questions please contact Tom Mohr, Homeland Security Grant Administration Branch Chief, 573-526-9245 or at [tom.mohr@sema.dps.mo.gov](mailto:tom.mohr@sema.dps.mo.gov).

### **Register On line for Spring State Emergency Preparedness Conference!**

Participants and sponsors can now register on line for the Spring 2009 State Emergency Preparedness Conference March 24-27 in Branson. As of January 16, 2009, 360 people and 40 exhibitors have registered for the conference Go to <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/semapage.htm> then click on the link to the 2009 Spring Conference to complete the registration process.

### **SEMA Training Classes in January and February**

SEMA's training schedule is posted online: <http://training.dps.mo.gov>. To apply for a SEMA course simply follow the directions on the home page. **SEMA will not reimburse meals or hotels for classes identified as "Local Offering."**

1/27-29/09	EMS Operations and Planning for WMD Incidents	Carrollton
1/28/09	Active Shooters for Schools Training	Richmond
1/29/09	<b>MERIS System Operator Training (Local Offering)</b>	<b>Union</b>
<b>1/30/09</b>	<b>MERIS System Operator Training (Local Offering)</b>	<b>Union</b>
2/3-4/09	Effective Communications (PDS)	Jefferson City
2/5/09	Rapid Assessment Workshop (APDS Required)	Pacific
2/5/09	Damage Assessment	Pacific
2/9/09	Senior Officials Workshop for all Hazards Preparedness	Chesterfield
2/10-11/09	Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment	Joplin
<b>2/18-19/09</b>	<b>Developing and Managing Volunteers (Local Offering) (PDS)</b>	<b>St Louis County</b>
2/18-19/09	EOC Management and Operations (APDS Required)	SEOC
2/23-24/09	Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparedness (APDS Elect)	Warrensburg
2/24-26/09	Exercise Design and Evaluation	Hannibal
2/25/09	Rapid Assessment Workshop (APDS Required)	St Louis City
2/25/09	Damage Assessment	St Louis City

### **2009 Spring SAVE Coalition Training Classes Set**

State Emergency Management Agency's (SEMA) Earthquake Program Manager Steve Besemer announced 2009 training classes for current and prospective members of the Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation, or SAVE, Coalition. The dates and locations of those classes are:

- February 12, 2009 (SEMO)      Classroom TBC      Ft. Leonard Wood
- April 10, 2009 (NWMO)      General Services Admin.      Kansas City

All SAVE Training Classes are free of charge and will be held from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. The primary audience for this class is architects, professional engineers, construction contractors, building inspectors, and other qualified volunteers. SAVE was established under Revised Missouri Statute 44.023 to assist SEMA by making qualified volunteers available to assist the State to conduct emergency assessments of buildings following catastrophic events. For information on these, other SAVE Training Classes, or to register, contact SEMA Earthquake Program Manager Steve Besemer at (573) 526-9232 or at [steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov](mailto:steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov)

## **Earthquake Awareness Month (Feb) 2009 Activities Scheduled Campaign Posted to SEMA Homepage**

**By Steve Besemer, Earthquake Program Manager**

The 09 Earthquake Awareness Campaign has been posted to SEMA's homepage. The 09 Earthquake Awareness campaign is focusing on safety and home mitigation activities citizens can do to protect their homes. For preparedness, there is information on emergency food and water, 3-day survival pack and drop, cover & hold. For mitigation, there is information on mitigation strategies, and how-to instructions for securing water, gas lines, computers, pictures and mirrors, bookcases etc. The 09 EQAM link is: <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/EQ09/EQ09Awareness.htm>

The 2009 Earthquake Awareness Month Activities include:

**Saturday, January 31:** Earthquake Displays at West Park Mall, Cape Girardeau.

**Wednesday, February 4:** Disaster Medicine 101 Post Earthquake for Public Health, Little Rock, AR via video conference. SEMA and Dept of Health and Senior Services will host video conferencing for this class at several sites in Missouri including Jefferson City.

**Thursday, February 5:** MO Seismic Safety Commission Meeting, St Louis.

**Thursday, February 5:** St. Louis Area Earthquake Hazards Mapping Project working group meets, St Louis.

**Friday, February 6:** "Earthquake Means Business" Seminar at AT&T Center, St Louis. Limited to 300 participants register online before Monday, February 2, 2009 at [www.gatewayccc.us](http://www.gatewayccc.us) under the "Register for an Event" area

**Friday, February 6:** SAVE Coalition Board Meeting, Jefferson City

**Tuesday, February 12:** SAVE Coalition (ATC-20) Training class, Fort Leonard Wood.

**Thursday, February 19:** Town Hall Meeting on earthquakes in the Midwest will be conducted in Kansas City. Scheduled presenters will have information for the public on the New Madrid Seismic Zone and Nemaha uplift, catastrophic planning, and tips for public preparedness.

**Tuesday, February 24:** Earthquake Non-Structural Mitigation Workshop, Sikeston.

**Friday, February 27:** Earthquake Awareness forum sponsored by Perry County Health Dept., Perryville.

**Friday, March 6:** Earthquake Non-Structural Mitigation Workshop for Hospitals, St Peters

**Department of Natural Resources Division of Geology & Land Survey** will be hosting earthquake classes for schools during February. **Division of State Parks** will host earthquake activities at Onondaga Cave State Park in Crawford County in February.

## **NWS Focuses Driving Awareness with Turn Around Don't Drown**

**By Kelsey Angle, NWS Springfield**

The NWS developed a web page with information on the Flash Flood Risk Analysis Project (FFRAP). Here is a link to this page: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ffrapsymposium>

Flood Awareness Week is scheduled for March 16-20, 2009. The National Weather Service is working on an educational, safety and preparedness campaign. Additional details will be provided via email along with a webpage which will include flood safety power point presentations, brochures and a child safety video campaign dealing with flooding for use in your organization and community.

Contacts at the NWS Springfield office are: Kelsey Angle [kelsey.angle@noaa.gov](mailto:kelsey.angle@noaa.gov) Andy Foster [andy.foster@noaa.gov](mailto:andy.foster@noaa.gov) or Steve Runnels [steve.runnels@noaa.gov](mailto:steve.runnels@noaa.gov) or call (417) 863-8028 ext 0

## **Center for Homeland Defense and Security Masters Program**

### **Applications due May 1, 2009**

**By Thomas E. Mohr, MEPM, Homeland Security Grant Administration Branch**

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security offer the premier master's degree program in homeland security through the Naval Postgraduate School. The 18-month master's degree program is offered at no cost to eligible senior and fast-rising local, state, tribal, and federal officials with significant responsibilities in homeland security and related disciplines. The next deadline for application to the master's degree program for the fall 2009 cohorts is May 1, 2009. You can apply online at [www.chds.us](http://www.chds.us).

This is a hybrid online and in-residence program is designed to accommodate busy leaders. It requires participants to be in-residence only 2 weeks each quarter (for a total of 12 weeks). All travel and tuition expenses are paid for eligible participants. The remainder of the coursework is delivered via cutting edge distance learning technologies. The curriculum and research are focused on current policy, strategy and organizational design challenges. Participants complete research papers and a thesis on actual policy development issues confronting their city, state, or sponsoring organization.

If you have already completed an application to the MA program, you will automatically be considered for subsequent cohorts. You do not need to complete a new application but are welcome to update your current application materials online.

## **FEMA EMI Independent Study Update**

**By Debbie Cheshire, SEMA Training**

The EMI Independent Study Program launched of the revised and updated course, IS-700.a NIMS: An Introduction. This course replaces the existing IS-700 NIMS: An Introduction. If you have previously started the IS-700 course and need to take the final exam, you must complete the exam and obtain a passing score before **February 13, 2009**. After February 13, 2009, the IS-700 exam will no longer be available.

You may complete your exam online by going to the IS-700.a course page (<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700a.asp>) and choosing the IS-700 exam from the box at the bottom right of the screen. If you are completing your final exam for IS-700 via OpScan bubble sheets, they must be postmarked no later than **Friday, February 13, 2009**. At this time there are no downloadable materials for IS 700.a. The IS700.a materials are forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact the Independent Study Office via email at [Independent.Study@dhs.gov](mailto:Independent.Study@dhs.gov) or by phone at (301) 447-1200.

## **DHS Establishes Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Program**

In December, DHS published a *Federal Register* notice asking for comments about a voluntary private sector accreditation and certification preparedness program that will assess whether a private sector entity complies with one or more voluntary preparedness standards the department will adopt. Congress authorized the Private Sector Preparedness (PS-Prep) program as part of legislation it passed in 2007 implementing recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.



The purpose of PS-Prep is to encourage private sector preparedness. The program does so by providing a mechanism for a private sector entity — a company, facility, not-for-profit corporation, hospital, stadium, university, etc.— to receive a certification from an accredited third party that it is in compliance with a private sector preparedness standard adopted by DHS. ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board will develop and oversee the certification process, manage the accreditation, and accredit qualified third parties in accordance with the accepted procedures of the program. Information is at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## **St Louis NWS Experiments with NWSChat for EMD Community**

**By Jim Kramper, NWS St Louis**

The NWS developed a chat system. Officially the system is still experimental. We will be looking at NWSChat to see if it facilitates simultaneous real-time dialog among the emergency management community, the electronic media, NWS, and other government partners during weather-related threats to public safety. NWS St. Louis will approve all account requests to participate in NWSChat.

NWSChat will include a wide variety of types of information. Some of this information will include contents of official NWS products available through other NWS systems and thus available to the public. However, other NWSChat content may include preliminary data which has not been screened by NWS for accuracy or applicability; highly technical discussions, some of them speculative, regarding atmospheric or other environmental conditions; and other types of information not intended for a general audience. NWSChat participants are expected to avoid release of information to a broader audience that might be misinterpreted or cause confusion. As an approved organization, your key responsibility is to nominate participants who have sufficient expertise to interpret these varied types of information and the ability to exercise judgment to use this information appropriately.

Contact Jim Kramper at [james.kramper@noaa.gov](mailto:james.kramper@noaa.gov) for more information about NWSChat or to establish an account

## **Volunteer Disaster Case Manager Training Offered February 7, 2009**

With the number of both declared and undeclared disasters, Local Long Term Recovery Committees are searching for volunteer case managers to help with local recovery efforts. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in partnership with the Missouri United Methodist Conference will be offering a free 8 hour volunteer Disaster Case Manager class at 8 a.m., February 7, at the Vineyard Church of Rolla, 708 North Main.

Volunteer Disaster Case Managers build relationships with disaster survivors and make an in-depth assessment of their disaster related unmet needs. They also help survivors develop their personal recovery plan. A Disaster Case Manager works as an advocate/facilitator who researches resources available to those affected by disasters. The case manager remains in contact with the client until the disaster related needs are met.

The class is limited to 40 people. At no cost to them, trainees will be required to pass a national background check. To register on-line go to [www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov) Click on the Training/Exercise link in the blue sidebar. The class registration is listed in the training schedule. If you have trouble registering on line, please call SEMA Training at 573-526-9126 between 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.